



THE NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY

## NEWSLETTER

A Research Center for Horse and Field Sports

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Laura Rose, Editor

# Over the Jumps: Books and Serials On Steeplechasing in America

Peter Winants

During the past 20 years I have spent many hours researching books and serials on steeplechasing in the National Sporting Library, prompted by authoring books on steeplechase champions Jay Trump and Flatterer and writing articles for *The Chronicle of the Horse* and other magazines. Recently, Librarian Laura Rose and I have assisted Field Horne, the curator of the National Museum of Racing, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., in gathering material for an exhibit this summer at the museum to mark the 100th anniversary of the National Steeplechase Association (see story, page 3).

The reference sources in the Library for American steeplechasing are broken down in the accompanying sidebar into history books, biographies and serials. I'll describe personal favorites in each category.

### Historical Leaps and Bounds

Three of the history books on my hit list deal with the Maryland Hunt Cup.

Stuart Rose's *The Maryland Hunt Cup* covers 1894 through 1930. Rose, a steeplechase rider, described with feeling what the race is about—its background and the horses and riders that contested it.

In the chapter "About the Horses," Rose wrote of Princeton, the winner in 1903, 1905 and 1906. "He was thoroughly broken to harness and was good any day for 50 miles in a buggy or runabout. He was always driven to the races from his owner's farm, about 10 miles from the course, and having run his race and cooled out, was driven home again."



A color print by Paul Brown of a race at Wissahickon, Pa., in 1927 is the frontispiece of William B. Streett's book *Gentlemen Up*, which was published by The Derrydale Press in 1930. Streett is riding Realfoot (right), who was nosed out by C.V.B. Cushman Sr. on Hackenthorpe.

Rose summed up Maryland Hunt Cup participants. "No breeder has ever made money out of raising Hunt Cup prospects. No owner has grown rich out of his Hunt Cup winner. Certainly no rider has profited materially from the race. The best he may hope for is to be astride a winner; his fate is more apt to include a broken collarbone or worse. Yet, I know riders who would gladly risk an arm or a leg just to get a ride in the Maryland. I know owners who have spent decades in trying to procure a winner and who will continue to do so until racing or other worldly considerations will trouble them no more. Let us leave them to their simple pleasures."

The late John E. Rossell Jr. authored two books on the most challenging timber race in the world: *The Maryland Hunt Cup 1894-1954* and *The Maryland Hunt Cup: Past and Present*, which details the race through 1974.

Rossell, a West Point graduate, had army duty in Maryland in the late 1940s. He foxhunted, rode in point-to-points and became enamored with the Maryland Hunt Cup. Like Rose, his descriptions of the races and the backgrounds of horses and riders are marvelous. Best of all, though, are his appendices, which include race charts and directories of riders, owners and horses.

*Between the Flags* by Harry S. Page, *Aintree: Grand Nationals Past and Present* by Paul Brown, *Gentlemen Up* by William B. Streett and *Steeplechasing* by Raymond G. Wolfe Jr. are other history books I particularly like. All four provided valuable information for the steeplechase exhibit at Saratoga.

Page was a leading amateur steeplechase rider in the late 1800s and the first quarter of this century. He gave excellent descriptions of jump racing at the hunt meets and

### In This Issue

#### Hounds and Hunting Through the Pages

Curator Alexander Mackay-Smith on hunting man and author Joseph B. Thomas.

#### Literary Luck of the Irish

Samuel Neel donates his collection of Somerville and Ross books to the NSL on St. Patrick's Day.

major tracks like Monmouth Park, Belmont, Pimlico and Saratoga, as well as an introduction to fellow riders, trainers and owners of the era.

Paul Brown's *Aintree* has fine text and pictures of the American horse, Billy Barton, who was second in the 1928 Grand National, as well as the horses and riders from this country that competed at Aintree in the 1920s.

Bill Streett, the author of *Gentlemen Up*, was a leading amateur rider in timber races in the 1920s. His accounts of races are exciting. I felt as though I was riding with Streett over the big fences of races like the Meadow Brook Cup and the Maryland Hunt Cup. His book was illustrated by Brown. Many of the plates are in color.

Former steeplechase jockey Woolfe is a creative photographer and writer. *Steeplechasing* provides an excellent overview of the sport here and abroad. Woolfe outlines his goal in the preface: "I want the uninitiated to realize what it's like in a jumping race—to be a jockey going to the post, mouth dry as a bone and every nerve raw in anticipation of the challenge at hand, or to be an owner or trainer waiting in the stands, stomach knotted and palms sweating as their precious champion goes out to meet the test."

### The First Lady of the Field

Many of Woolfe's pictures are in Gerald Strine's *Montpelier, The Recollections of Marion duPont Scott*, which is my favorite biography. The Library has number 41 of 500 books in the leather-bound edition of *Montpelier*. It's signed by Mrs. Scott, the first lady of steeplechasing, who died in 1984.

Mrs. Scott's biography is one of the most lavishly produced books in the Library's collection. It has a slip case with a sketch of Mrs. Scott's French blue and old rose racing colors; cloth page markers in these colors; marbled end papers; and gilt edges all around.

The layout and design are equally tasteful, and the text by Strine, the former editor of *Horseman's Journal* magazine, is excellent. Each chapter includes a section written by Mrs. Scott.

Marion duPont and brother William came to Montpelier, the former home of President James Madison near Charlottesville, Va., as small children in 1902



This poster featured the 127th running of the Grand National Steeplechase, which was won by Jolly Roger. Donated to the NSL by the estate of Harry Worcester Smith, it will be displayed at the National Museum of Racing's steeplechase exhibit this summer.

upon the purchase of the estate by their parents. The children named an area near the mansion "Coney Island," which was their playground. "We loved Coney Island, really loved it," wrote Mrs. Scott.

In building a show ring for their ponies and coops for their bantam chicks at Coney Island, Mrs. Scott explained that Willie was the carpenter and she the carpenter's helper. "He'd say, 'Hold that board up,' and I would. He had a knack for building things, even then. He would later lay out Delaware Park and was the architect for some of the finest racecourses in the world. I know it started right here at Montpelier when we were young, playing in Coney Island."

Strine described Montpelier's great race horses: Trouble Maker, the winner of the Maryland Hunt Cup in 1932; Man o' War's son, Battleship, the winner of the English Grand National in 1938; Shipboard, a son of Battleship, steeplechasing's Horse of the Year in 1956; Mongo, America's turf champion in 1963; Soothsayer, the champion chaser in 1972. And,

Mrs. Scott bred Mongo's half-brother, Neji, chasing's Horse of the Year in 1955, 1957 and 1958.

### Serials for Steeplechase Fans

Early steeplechasing in the United States is covered in four serials in the Library's collection: *The American Turf Register*, Volumes I, II and III of H. G. Crickmore's *Racing Calendar*, *The Spirit of the Times*, and *Goodwin's Annual Turf Guide*.

The *Turf Register*, published 1829-1844, has the chart of one of the first organized jump races, at the Washington (D. C.) Jockey Club in 1834; Volume I of the *Racing Calendar* records the first hurdle race at the Saratoga race course, in 1864; *The Spirit of the Times* has reports on hurdle and steeplechase racing in 1859-1902, some with illustrations by artist Henry Stull; *Goodwin's Turf Guide*, published 1882-1908, has the charts of jump races at major tracks.

The serials recording the races sanctioned by the National Steeplechase & Hunt Association were first published in 1910, and annually until 1917. A lapse ensued until 1931, when *Polo* magazine, edited by Peter Vischer, published the NSHA's yearbook under the title *Record of Hunt Race Meetings in America*. The NSHA published a mimeograph record of steeplechasing in the war years, and embarked again on bound volumes in 1948. Through 1952 these books were edited by Chris Wood Jr. and John E. Cooper as *Steeplechasing & Hunt Racing in America*; from 1953-1976, edited by Cooper, as *Steeplechasing in America*; from 1977 to the present, edited by Charles T. Colgan and William Gallo, as *American Steeplechasing*.

Known to its readers as "The Steeplechase Book," this annual has charts of each race at the hunt meets and major tracks; an index of riders, owners and trainers, showing each race entered; money and

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Laura Rose, Editor

races won; and the year-end standings of owners, trainers and jockeys. An annual history chapter has articles on bygone horses and riders and the year-by-year history of important races.

*The Sportsman*, *The Chronicle of the Horse* and *Steeplechase Times* likewise are valuable serials for steeplechase readers and historians.

*The Sportsman* was published in 1927-1933, and through 1940 by way of mergers with *Country Life* and *Horse and Horseman* magazines.

A three-part series titled "Over the Jumps" in *The Sportsman* in 1928 was written by William Moffett as told by J. Howard Lewis, the leading trainer of chasers in the first quarter of this century. Part I deals with

the history of the sport from the first race over fences in Ireland in 1752 through the early years in America. Part II describes great steeplechase horses of Lewis's time, and Part III with training jumpers.

*The Sportsman* and associate publications ceased publication at the outbreak of World War II and weren't revived.

Users of the National Sporting Library often refer to bound issues of the *Chronicle*, a weekly publication which has followed the sport of steeplechasing since its founding in 1937. Steeplechase enthusiasts keep track of the sport through the magazine's "Racing Over Fences" section, which has the results of each hunt meet and point-to-point meet in America, and races at major tracks. Likewise, the roster of winners that

appears annually in the Steeplechase Special Issue is valuable, with the breeding, owner, rider and trainer of the prior year's winners.

*Steeplechase Times*—the brainchild of Joe Clancy Jr. and brother Sean, the top jump jockey—became an immediate hit upon its debut in 1994. This year, it is the official publication of the National Steeplechase Association, with members receiving complimentary issues. Joe Clancy has become NSA's director of communications.

*Steeplechase Times* will be published 18 times in 1995. It features timely reports on racing and interviews with owners, jockeys, trainers and administrators, and it confronts issues facing the sport.

## Major Steeplechase Exhibit In Works at National Museum of Racing

"A Century of Jumpers," an exhibition celebrating the 100th year of the National Steeplechase Association, will be held at the National Museum of Racing, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. It opens on Steeplechase Day, July 27, and is in place through Oct. 31. Portions of the exhibit will then hit the road, with stops in the fall of this year and in 1996 at about 20 steeplechase meets throughout the country.

Paintings and engravings by Alken, Stull, Remington, Munnings, Flannery, Biegel, Brown, Voss, Reeves and others will be exhibited along with photographs that include a hurdle race at Saratoga in 1868 or 1869 and the Meadow Brook (N.Y.) Cup in 1897.

Trophies of important jump races and books on the sport, several on loan from the National Sporting Library, will be on display. The Library also contributed a bronze of the Maryland Hunt Cup by Marie Louise Radziwill and a colorful poster promoting the American Grand National in 1928.

Portions of the exhibit explore the conformation of a chaser, using a picture of Jay Trump as a model, and the training and schooling of jumpers. An historical overview deals with Ireland's chase to the steeple in 1752; the first recorded hurdle race in the United States, at the Washington, D.C., Jockey Club in 1834; the first true steeplechase in this country, at Paterson, N.J., in 1865; and down to the present.

Field Horne, the curator of collections at the museum, was the driving force behind "A Century of Jumpers."

"I don't have a background in steeplechasing, so I first had to travel afield and talk to the 'players,'" Horne said. Last fall, he visited Unionville, Pa.; Fair Hill, Md.; Middleburg, Va.; Montpelier Station, Va.; and Camden, S.C., to meet people and line up objects and art for the exhibit. Horne also stopped by the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore to investigate its recent exhibition commemorating the 100th Maryland Hunt Cup.

Horne was on the road again last winter. His stops included several days at the National Sporting Library to research the history of steeplechasing, and a valuable interview in Connecticut with John E. Cooper, a key administrator with the NSA from 1932 to retirement in 1975. Cooper was executive secretary and handicapper for many years and the editor of *American Steeplechasing*.

"Mr. Cooper is very articulate," said Horne. "He answered questions in a detailed and comprehensible way. I learned a lot about the types of fences and the transitions in the sport in his time."



COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF RACING

Frederic Remington's Steeplechase at Cedarhurst (Long Island, N.Y.), an oil on board dating from the late 1800s, is included in the National Museum of Racing's steeplechasing exhibition, "A Century of Jumpers."

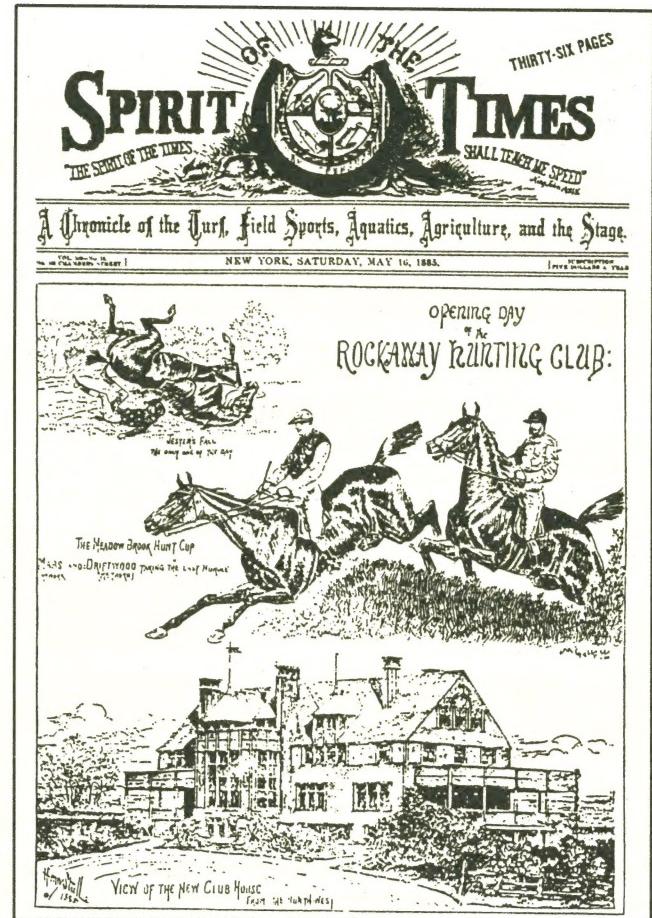
# American Steeplechasing in the NSL Collection

## History Books

- Alley, Frederick J. **Myopia Races & Riders, 1879-1930.** Boston: Myopia Hunt Club, 1931.
- Ballou, Ralph B. Jr. **Grasslands—America's Aintree.** A paper presented at the annual meeting of North America Society for Sports History, Tempe, Ariz., May 20-23, 1988.
- Brown, Paul. **Aintree: Grand Nationals Past and Present.** New York: Derrydale Press, 1930.
- Brown, Paul. **Spills and Thrills.** New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1931.
- Brown, Paul. **Ups and Downs.** New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1936.
- Clothier, William C. **A Story of A Great Horse and a Foolish Venture.** Philadelphia: The Author, 1953.
- Dodds, E. King. **Canadian Turf Recollections and Other Sketches.** Toronto: The Author, 1909.
- Gourlay, John. **The Grasslands International Steeplechase, 1930.** Gallatin, Tenn.: Grasslands Downs, 1931.
- Griswold, Frank Gray. **Race Horses and Racing.** New York: The Author, 1925.
- Griswold, Frank Gray. **Sport on Land and Water, Vol. I.** New York: The Author, 1913.
- Griswold, Frank Gray. **Sport on Land and Water, Vol. II.** New York: The Author, 1915.
- Griswold, Frank Gray. **Sport on Land and Water. Vol. III.** New York: The Author, 1916.
- Myzk, William. **The History and Origins of the Virginia Gold Cup.** The Plains, Va.: Piedmont Press, 1987.
- Page, Harry S. **Between the Flags.** New York: Derrydale Press, 1929.
- Rose, Stuart. **The Maryland Hunt Cup.** New York: Huntington Press, 1931.
- Rossell, John E. Jr. **The Maryland Hunt Cup 1894-1954.** Baltimore: The Sporting Press, 1954.
- Rossell, John E. Jr. **The Maryland Hunt Cup, Past and Present.** Baltimore: The Sporting Press, 1974.
- Smith, Harry Worcester, et al. (chapters in) **Racing and Breeding in America and the Colonies.** London: London & Counties Press Assoc. Ltd., 1931.
- Stoneridge, M. A. **Great Horses of Our Time.** New York: Doubleday, 1972.
- Streett, William B. **Gentlemen Up.** New York: Derrydale Press, 1930.
- Trubiano, Ernie. **The Carolina Cup, 50 Years of Steeplechasing and Socializing.** Columbia, S. C.: R. L. Bryan Co., 1982.
- Woolfe, Raymond G. Jr. **Steeplechasing.** New York: Viking Press, 1983.

## Biographies

- Grand, Gordon. **Redmond C. Stewart, Foxhunter and Gentleman of Maryland.** New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1936.
- Kidd, Jane, with John Oaksey. **The Race for the Championship, an American Wins British Title.** London: J. A. Allen Co., 1979.
- McIlvaine, Jane. **The Will to Win, the True Story of Tommy Smith and Jay Trump.** New York: Doubleday, 1966.



*The cover page of The Spirit of the Times magazine on May 16, 1885, illustrated steeplechase racing at the Rockaway (N.Y.) Hunt Club.*

- Slater, Joy, with Price, Steven D. **Riding's A Joy.** New York: Doubleday, 1982.
- Strine, Gerald. **Montpelier, the Recollections of Marion du Pont Scott.** New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976.
- Winants, Peter. **Jay Trump, a Steeplechasing Saga.** Baltimore: Winants Bros. Inc., 1966.
- Winants, Peter. **Flatterer, the Story of a Steeplechase Champion.** Middleburg, Va.: The Chronicle of the Horse, 1988.

## Serials

- American Race Horses.** Edited by John Hervey, Joe H. Palmer et al. New York: Sagamore Press, 1951-1957; Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders, Lexington, Ky.: 1956-1963.
- American Racing Calendar.** New York: Turf, Field & Farm, 1873-1876.
- American Racing Manual.** New York: miscellaneous editions, 1917-1986.
- American Racing Record & Turf Guide.** W. C. Dorling, editor. New York: 1870-1872.
- American Steeplechasing.** New York: National Steeplechase & Hunt Assoc., 1977 to present.
- The American Turf Register & Sporting Magazine.** Baltimore and New York: 1829-1902.
- The Chronicle of the Horse.** Middleburg, Va.: 1937 to present.
- Steeplechase Times.** Newark, Del.: 1994 to present.

## Seen in the Stacks . . .

**V**elen P. Ross, an architectural historian with the Virginia Department of Transportation in Fredericksburg, Va., researched the Warrenton Horse Show grounds. Ross's research will be used in discussions of planning possible road widening projects for the site's frontage on Shirley Avenue in Warrenton.

**Karen and Arthur Alexander** of Brinklow, Md., perused the foxhunting collection.

**John K. Gott** of Arlington, Va., stopped by to discuss historic periodicals. Gott is the mainstay of the Fauquier Heritage Society in Marshall, Va.

**Jo Struby** of Middleburg researched books on horse training.

**Warren Corrado** of Bealeton, Va., enjoyed a look at books on sporting art.

**Rudy Abramson**, of Reston, Va., researched the history of horse sports in the hunt country. Abramson, an historian with the "Protect Historic America" organization, is writing a book on the history of the Northern Virginia area. The organization is financing the book with surplus funds that had been raised to fight the Walt Disney Company's proposed theme park in Haymarket, Va., which was scrapped.

**David Hess** of Vienna, Va., looked into books by Capt. Vladimir Littauer.

**J.K. Bills** of Biglerville, Pa., a member of the Plum Run Hunt, enjoyed a look at the foxhunting section.

**Jack Schock** of the Middleburg Classic Horse Show took a tour of the collection.

**Greg Jay and Holly Parker** of Pegasus Advertising in Silver Spring, Md., surveyed the NSL collection as a resource for future advertising ideas.

**Barbara Reed** of Reston, Va., researched books on the horse in history.

**Florence Hillman** of Middleburg looked for information on Laurence Fitzgerald, the owner of the Cortland Wagon Company.

**Rachel Cohen** of *Dressage Today* magazine in Gaithersburg, Md., researched riding attire and early equitation.

**Susan Rechen** of Kensington, Md., and **Suzanne Smith** of Frederick, Md., researched the bloodlines of their Thoroughbreds and Quarter Horses.

**Jackie Burke** of Orlean, Va., researched equestriennes in English horse sports.

**Hugh Wiley** of Palmyra, Va., took a tour of the collection.

**Donnan Monk** of Bluemont, Va., researched Western art.

**Karen V. Smith** and **Allison Harcourt** of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Williamsburg, Va., researched sidesaddle riding, draft horses and foxhunting in Colonial America.

**Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rice** of Metamora, Mich., and **Mr. and Mrs. Donald Gessner** of Park City, Utah, took a tour of the collection.

**Bruce Smart** of Upperville, Va., did some Thoroughbred pedigree research.

**Donna Manaker** of Middleburg looked into the NSL's foxhunting collection.

**David Kern** of Sterling, Va., enjoyed a look at the art section.

**Miranda Hope** of Washington, D.C., researched the history of the Virginia Gold Cup.

**Marijan Grogiza** of Mansfield, Ohio, and **Elise Ann Breitinger** of Lovettsville, Va., took a look at the collection.

### Phone/Mail

**Malcolm Cormack** and **Sarah A. Mattis** of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Va., researching an Alfred de Dreux painting of Hollingsworth Magniac, master of the Oakley (England) Hunt in the mid-19th century.

**Cynthia Reinhardt**, a product researcher for the J. Peterman Company in Lexington, Ky., researching the history of the pink coat.

**Chip Boyer** of Dayton, Ohio, researching polo player Howell H. Howard, who died in a polo accident at Meadowbrook in 1937.

**Heather Seville** of *Horseman's News* in San Marco, Calif., researching Andalusians.

**David Williams** of West Lafayette, Ind., researching Phillippe-Etienne Lafosse's 1752 book on horse anatomy, *Cours d'Hippiatrique*.

## Ready to Spin Your Wheels?

If you're interested in carriages, driving or just plain horses, harness up some mental energy and head to The Museums at Stony Brook in Stony Brook, N.Y., for their 1995 "Hooves & Wheels" programs, which relate to the museums' carriage collection. The programs are held Sunday afternoons from 2-4:30.

The 1995 "Hooves & Wheels" calendar includes: April 30, "Magnificent Morgans;" May 21, "Beautiful Belgian Returns;" June 18, "Driving New Roads: Driving for the Disabled;" July 30, "Horses and Carriages in Your Own Back Yard: The Paumanok Driving Club;" Aug. 27, "History in Details: Conserving Horse-Drawn Vehicles;" Sept. 17, "Carriage Painting: Artistry and Technique;" Oct. 29,

"Wood and Its Characteristics;" Nov. 19, "American Stables and Carriage Houses;" and Dec. 10, "The Well-Dressed Horse."

The Museums at Stony Brook include art, history and carriage museums. The carriage collection features over 250 vehicles, most in original presentation quality. For more information about the carriage collection or the "Hooves & Wheels" programs, call Merri Ferrell at (516) 751-0066, extension 222.



## Comments from the Curator

By Alexander Mackay-Smith

### Joseph B. Thomas: In the Grand Manner

Joseph B. Thomas of Boston was a brilliant architect and financier, who, as he prospered, moved to New York City, then to Virginia in 1910 to become a legendary foxhunter.

Thomas made two major contributions to the sport of foxhunting. He bred American foxhounds on a grand scale. His hounds were acquired by many newly created hunts throughout the United States in 1920 through 1940. The descendants of these hounds are among the best in many organized packs to this day.

Thomas is also remembered as the author of *Hounds and Hunting Through the Ages*, a landmark in American foxhunting literature.

Thomas's interest in foxhunting was first aroused by Harry Worcester Smith, master of the Grafton Hounds near Worcester, Mass. Smith's pack of American foxhounds was the winner in 1905 of the Great Foxhound Match against the English hounds of A. Henry Higginson, who hunted a territory north of Boston. The match was held on neutral ground in northern Virginia, near Upperville and Middleburg.

To help win the match, Smith used 12 hounds purchased from Burrell Frank Bywaters of Madison County, Va. After the match, Smith left with Bywaters two stud hounds procured in Kentucky, Simple and Sinner. Local hound breeders, and later Thomas, bred extensively to these hounds, creating a pool of top American foxhounds.

### A Cherished Donation

Virginia Lloyd recently donated to the National Sporting Library books from the collection of her late husband, Stacy Lloyd, the co-founder of *The Chronicle of the Horse* magazine in 1937. Included is a leather-bound, signed copy of *Hounds and Hunting Through the Ages*. Fifty copies of this presentation copy were available; Mrs. Lloyd's gift is number 48.

Thomas did everything in a grand manner. In 1911, he began the construction of Huntland on land adjoining what is now Foxcroft School, north of Middleburg. Huntland became the most beautiful and complete hunting establishment in the country. It included a lovely brick mansion and luxurious stables and kennels. Pictures and layout plans are in Thomas's book.

In 1912, Thomas became founder and president of the American Foxhound Club, which continues to flourish as the Foxhound Club of North America, and he was master of the Piedmont Fox Hounds in 1915 through 1919.

Thomas became the country's most extensive breeder of American foxhounds. An additional farm was purchased at the top of the Blue Ridge Mountains, about 10 miles west of Upperville, where elaborate kennels with miles of runs were constructed.

The countryside had many foxhunting farmers in Thomas's time. His fine huntsman, Charlie Carver, placed bitches in whelp with farmers. When the litters arrived, the pups were left until ready to be entered. Carver would then visit the farmers, paying \$50 for each puppy he fancied. The farmers kept the remainder.

Under this system, Thomas and Carver often had as many as 1,000 hounds at one time. During the 1920s, one could visit the Thomas kennels and draft an entire pack of entered hounds, something which had not happened before, and has not happened since. In this way, organized hunting, thanks to Thomas, made great strides.

Many claim that the Thomas era in Virginia provided the greatest sport in the history of American foxhunting. At the end of each hunting day, Mrs. Carver wrote down her husband's description of the sport. The National Sporting Library is fortunate to have these diaries. Extensive portions were published in my books, *The American Foxhound, 1747-1987*, and *American Foxhunting, An Anthology*.

Along the way, an intense rivalry developed between Thomas and near neighbor Daniel C. Sands, the MFH of the Middleburg Hunt from 1912-1946. Sands won, leaving Thomas and his pack, in 1920, without a hunting country. However, invitations to hunt other territories were plentiful. From 1920 to 1933, Mr. Thomas's Foxhounds hunted in seven hunting countries—Ashby Gap, Flint Hill and Sperryville in Virginia; Millbrook and Montauk Point in New York; Overhills in western North Carolina; and Grasslands, near Gallatin, Tenn. During the 1926-1927 season, his hounds went out 112 times in 12 consecutive months.

In 1929, Thomas moved his pack of 72 1/2 couples to a country of 30,000 acres of open country north of Nashville. The Great Depression, however, brought an end to the hunting at Grasslands.

Thomas's health deteriorated, resulting in the disbandment of his pack in 1933. Half went to William duPont's Foxcatcher Hunt in Delaware; the remainder to Mason Houghland of the Hillsboro Hounds in Tennessee.

During the 1920s and 1930s, Eugene Connett was the proprietor of the Derrydale Press, which published a series of books on foxhunting, steeplechasing, fishing and shooting. In 1928, Derrydale published *Hounds and Hunting Through the Ages*, a beautiful book printed on fine paper, handsomely bound and copiously illustrated.

Features of the book are a color reproduction by Franklin B. Voss of Thomas's pack leaving the stable/kennel complex at Huntland and prints of paintings of Thomas's hounds by Percival Rosseau.

The introduction is by Mason Houghland, who had a sharp wit and a fine turn of phrase. The chapters include sporting art; ballads and music; ancient and modern methods of hunting a pack of hounds; scent; kennel design; and riding to hounds. Above all, there are fascinating accounts of runs with Thomas's hounds.



At one time Joseph B. Thomas had a kennel of 1,000 American foxhounds. One season his pack hunted 112 times in 12 consecutive months.

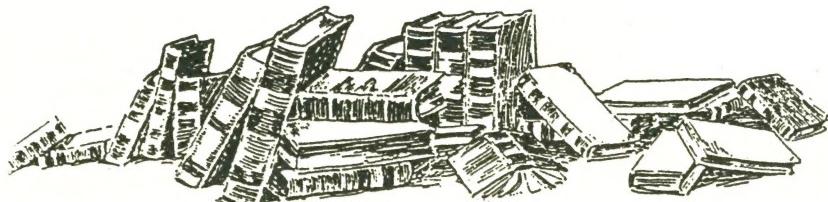
# Books Wanted

The following is a list of books not yet in the collection of the National Sporting Library. If you have any of these books, we hope that at some point you will consider donating them to the Library, where they will be accessible to horse lovers, scholars, students and pleasure readers.

Gifts of books to the Library are tax-deductible. For more information on donations, contact the NSL at (703) 687-6542.

## Welcome New Friends

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Alexander/  
Brinklow, Md.  
John Auborn/Inyokern, Calif.  
W. Bell-Watkins/Berryville, Va.  
Elaine Benkert/Lake Zurich, Ill.  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Chapman/  
Free Union, Va.  
Cynthia Curran/Marshall, Va.  
Liza Dunning/Boyce, Va.  
Lauren R. Giannini/Aldie, Va.  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Gilligan/  
Cornwall, N.Y.  
Mary Susan Grimes/Washington, D.C.  
Peggy Hooven/Leesburg, Va.  
Helen Junkin/Lorton, Va.  
Coleen Keenan-Hersson/Remington, Va.  
Donna Kinnear/Ridgefield, Conn.  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Leck/  
Maple Plain, Minn.  
Lillian E. Lewis/Chesterfield, Mo.  
Merry Cathryn Lynch/Aldie, Va.  
Donna Manaker/Middleburg, Va.  
Deborah J. Marriott/Fairfax, Va.  
Sandra Martin/Sterling, Va.  
Donnan Monk/Bluemont, Va.  
Mabel Owen/South Dartmouth, Mass.  
June Ruhsam/The Plains, Va.  
Susan Sculthorpe/Rockland, Del.  
Mary Shoemaker/Tucson, Ariz.  
Kitty Slater/Upperville, Va.  
Deborah Springborn/Purcellville, Va.  
Steeplechase Times/Newark, Del.  
Elizabeth Strauss/Oakland, Calif.  
Nancy Townsend/Tryon, N.C.  
Mr. and Mrs. Jon L. Vickery/Dillsburg, Pa.  
Margot Wagner/Spotsylvania, Va.



- Aldin, Cecil  
*A Sporting Garland*  
London: Sounds & Co., n.d.
- Allen, John  
*Principles of Modern Riding for Gentlemen*  
London: Tegg, 1825.
- Alvisi, Alessandro  
*Horse and Man*  
London: Country Life, 1939.
- Andrews, Duncan  
*Tally Ho! 400 Years of Foxhunting: Books, Manuscripts, Prints and Drawings from the Collection of Duncan Andrews*  
New York: The Author, 1975.
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London: George Allen & Unwin, 1957.

# Book News and Reviews

**THE LESS-THAN-PERFECT RIDER:  
Overcoming Common Riding Problems.** Lesley Bayley and Caroline Davis. Howell Book House, 866 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022. 1994. 149 pp. Illus. Index. \$28.00.

What aspiring equestrian could resist picking up a book with a title like this? And a quick tour through the lavishly illustrated pages is sure to catch the interest of anyone who has ever struggled with the problems of learning to ride. But there is more here than in the average how-to-ride book.

For example, in Chapter 2, which deals with safety and comfort, the authors cover not only helmets and boots, they go on to suggest what styles and fabrics of riding pants are appropriate for people with "less-than-perfect" figures. They also have tips for dealing with health problems of the rider such as allergies to hay and dust. An interesting section on avoiding injuries includes diagrams of the human spine and knee, as well as a series of suppling exercises. The chapter concludes with a quiz on mental attitude and some good suggestions for working toward the achievement of a more positive state of mind.

In chapter 3, "The Body Beautiful," the authors cover specific problems associated with different body shapes, and the photos on these pages alone are almost worth the price of the book. Did you ever wonder how the "pear-shaped" rider affects the horse's way of going? You will find the answer here. This chapter also includes exercises, this time designed to improve one's fitness to ride.

The book goes on to deal with common riding faults on the flat and over fences, and has a separate chapter on the specific problems of the nervous rider. Throughout the text there is as much emphasis on the mental aspects of riding as on the physical. There is much good information here, particularly for the beginning rider who may not be very aware of the mental and physical requirements for success on horseback. The illustrations are the book's greatest strength; there are wonderfully informative photos and drawings on almost every page.

However, its strength is also its weakness. The basic text is constantly interrupted not only by photos and drawings, but by blocks of text in boxes, or different type faces, or text printed on gray background. The overall effect is very busy—almost as though a computer addict was testing all the bells and whistles in his desktop publishing program.

In addition, there is an inconsistency in the photo references that is maddening: Sometimes it is clear which photo is under discussion, and sometimes you just have to guess. The end result is a book crammed full of useful information, that is gorgeous to look at, but sometimes hard to read.

D.D.

**IF WISHES WERE HORSES.** Deborah Eve Rubin. Mountain Press Publishing, P.O. Box 2399, Missoula, MT 59806. 1995. 255 pp. Illus. Indexes. Paperback. \$12.00.

This book is a terrific collection of quotations about horses, horse people and related topics. It's well-priced, easy to read and just plain fun. When possible, which is most of the time, the quotation's origination is included as well as other variations on the quote. The author does an admirable job of grouping the quotes. You can't imagine how many quotes there are about gift horses.

This entertaining book can be left on a coffee table, in a waiting room, near a hospital bed or anywhere else someone might not be able to dig into a novel but needs worthwhile distraction. You can pick it up a hundred times and read something new. There are 1,109 quotes included.

I totally enjoyed finding some of Cooky McClung's unique humorous quotes mixed in with quotes from Angel Cordero Jr., The Koran and William Shakespeare. I loved the quote from Princess Anne: "When I appear in public, people expect me to neigh, grind my teeth, paw the ground and swish my tail—none of which is easy."

Frankly, this book is also an excellent reference. Very often people misquote famous lines like "If wishes were horses, beggars would ride" but don't know where to find out what's correct. This book should be on the shelves of all equine-major students, researchers, writers and editors.

The cover and format are simple but attractive with a few line drawings. The indexes are well done and correct. For \$12, you can't beat this deal.

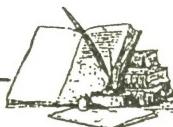
C.R.F.

**THE JOCKEY CLUB'S ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THOROUGHBRED RACING IN AMERICA.** Edward L. Bowen. Little, Brown & Co., 34 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108. 1994. 223 pp. Illus. Index. Appendix. \$60.00.

The 200-plus pictures, alone, are worth the price for this coffee-table book. Lovely paintings by de Lattre, Troye, Woodside, Broadhead, Menasco, Flannery, Voss and Reeves are reproduced, and there's marvelous photography from the C. C. Cook and Bert Morgan collections at the Keeneland Association Library and by contemporary photographers Norman Mauskopf, Jerry Cooke and, particularly, Dell Hancock.

Bowen's text and the introduction by Steven Crist are also first-rate. There are overview chapters on the foundations of the American turf, champions, bloodlines and personalities. Then, Bowen, the former editor of *The Blood-Horse* magazine, devotes five chapters to eras of racing. In each, accomplishments of great horses like Domino, Sysonby, Colin, Regret, Man o' War, Whirlaway, Citation, Native Dancer, Kelso, Genuine Risk, Secretariat and John Henry are described.

The trends in racing in the various eras are also analyzed—the founding of The Jockey Club in 1894, and, two years later, the responsibility of The Jockey Club to maintain the American Stud Book; the wave of legislation against racing in the late 1890s and early 1900s; the introduction of saliva tests, lip tattoos, starting gates and pari-mutuel betting and the first \$100,000 race, the Santa Anita Handicap, in the 1930s; the first millionaire race horse, Whirlaway, in the 1940s; the first stallion syndicated for \$1 million, Nashua, in the 1950s; the introduction of Eclipse Awards for year-end champions in the 1970s; the formulation of the Breeders' Cup races in the 1980s; and the depression of the horse market in the late 1980s and early 1990s.



The appendix includes charts of annual champions, including steeplechasers, through 1992; the evolution of time records—the record for one mile, for example, of 1:38 3/4 in 1894 to Dr. Fager's 1:32 1/5 in 1968; the inductees in the Hall of Fame at the National Museum of Racing; leading jockeys, owners and trainers, 1894-1992, and the leading breeders and sires; and a graphic listing since 1894 of the number of registered foals, days of racing, races, etc.

This book doesn't miss a trick. It's must reading for turf enthusiasts and sport historians.

P. W.

**THE HUNTING YEAR.** Photography by Trevor Meeks. Text by Michael Clayton. Reed International Book Ltd., 81 Fulham Rd., London SW3 6RB. 1994. 128 pp. Illus. \$34.95.

*The Hunting Year* profits from the collaboration of Michael Clayton, editor of *Horse and Hound* magazine in England, and Trevor Meeks, whose marvelous color pictures regularly appear in the magazine.

Clayton states the purpose of the coffee-table book in the foreword: "To present a record of a sport all too often

misunderstood and unfairly abused, which continues to make a valuable contribution to rural life."

The book is divided into three sections: "Springtime of Hope," which mostly deals with puppy and hound shows; "Dawn of Sport," describing hunt activities in the summer months and during cubhunting in the early fall; and "Spirit of the Chase," the biggest and most exciting section, focusing on the formal hunting season from November through March.

The text is fine, but the real reason you'll buy this book is Meeks's photography. I enjoyed most of his 128 pictures, and I rate eight or ten as prospects for framing and hanging. My list includes: "Ready for Action," of hounds at a meet, peeping through the legs of the huntsman's horse, highlighted by soft backlighting; "Working on the Line," a close-up of a single hound in full cry in a covert, with leaves at the height of fall color; "Another Day Over," a two-page spread with hounds and staff silhouetted against the late afternoon sky; and "Going for It," featuring five foxhunters in the air over a formidable hedge, their faces expressing the exhilaration of the chase, or, perhaps, danger or fear.

Congratulations, Meeks. As one photographer to another, your foxhunting photography is as good as it gets.

P. W.

**ALL-WEATHER SURFACES FOR HORSES.** Ray Lodge and Susan Shanks. J.A. Allen & Co., 1 Lower Grosvenor Place, London, England SW1W OEL. 1994. 73 pp. Illus. \$7.95.

This book tackles an awfully big subject in just a few pages, and it packs in a lot of information. You'll probably learn a lot, but don't expect it to tell you step-by-step how to build an arena.

The book educates the reader so he or she can take a good look at what they have landwise and what they need to construct an all-weather surface. It is written in a logical format, from selecting the site to after-installation maintenance, but it leaves the real decisions up to the owner. After reading this book, you will be able to talk intelligently with contractors and avoid many footing pitfalls, which is extremely important when you are investing the kind of money necessary for arena footing and dealing with construction contractors. Problems are emphasized throughout the book.

I enjoyed the relaxed manner in which it is written. It's not too technical to understand—even though an engineer was one of the writers—and it relates to the average horseman who really doesn't want to waste a lot of time on research. I found the information on sand arenas enlightening.

While the line drawings are helpful, the photos are fairly useless. I really don't want to see a horse just galloping on a surface. I want to see what happens when his hooves hit the surface. I want close-ups of different surfaces. I want to see some examples of successes and failures.

But the major item this book is missing is a comprehensive index. Although you can read and highlight the information, it would be easier to refer to after reading with an index. No reference book should be without an index.

Overall, I'd recommend this book to anyone considering building an arena, but I wouldn't stop my research there. Information is power. The more the better.

C.R.F.



In this image from *The Hunting Year*, photographer Trevor Meeks captured Belvoir whipper-in Julian Holliday standing point among a flock of curious spectators.

**SAFE HORSE, SAFE RIDER.** Jessie Haas. Storey Publishing, P.O. Box 445, Pownal, VT 05261. 1994. 160 pp. Illus. Index. Appendices. \$14.95.

Jessie Haas is both a horsewoman and a writer of children's books. Here she combines the two in a book for young riders (age nine and up) that is centered around safety.

The concept is great. The only question is, will young riders actually read it? A friend who is a former Pony Clubber noted, "How many kids would actually sit around and read the Pony Club manual? The ones who usually end up reading it are the parents."

This book would be excellent for parents or riding instructors to share with young riders, but I wouldn't count on the riders to pick it up to read for fun. As horse crazy as I was, I'm not sure I would have pored through sections on stirrup traction or the intricacies of electric fence. And though there are many nice illustrations, I would have wanted to see even more demonstration-type photos, especially ones with neat horses in them.

That aside, as an adult, I enjoyed the book immensely. It covers all the must-knows, like propertying, grooming, trailering, and riding out, as well as less-known information, like avoiding hay combustion, finding emergency shelter during a storm, and choosing a good instructor. The writing is clear and entertaining, and peppered with illustrative personal anecdotes of the author's own horsekeeping experiences.

In addition, the author has an uncanny ability to take something that should sound dumb on paper and turn it into something to think about: "Entering a large group of loose horses is one of the most dangerous things a horseman can do. It's like a second grader getting into the middle of a professional football game. You're too small to play, and you don't know the rules." There is an emphasis throughout on avoiding unsafe situations by becoming familiar with horse nature, and by asking for help from experienced horsemen.

"Horse sports are not a do-it-yourself activity," Haas writes in the foreword. "The more and better instruction you get, the more this book will help you." Adults who encourage "older young riders" to read this book can then lead them into discussions about important safety points, and how they apply to the young rider's own barn and riding situations. These "safe riders" will have a better chance at experiencing the true challenges and enjoyment of both riding and horsekeeping.

L.R.

## New Arrivals

### Books

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***Not Quite a Horsewoman***  
London: Arlington Books, 1988.
- Alexander, Holmes  
***Between the Stirrup and the Ground***  
Washington, D.C.: The National Press, 1967.
- Ainslie, Tom and Bonnie Ledbetter  
***The Body Language of Horses***  
New York: William Morrow and Company, 1980.  
(American Youth Horse Council)  
***Horse Industry Handbook***  
Lexington, Ky.: American Youth Horse Council, 1994.
- Amman, Max, ed.  
***L'Annee Hippique 1994/1995***  
Best, Holland: BCM, 1994.
- Baber, Carolyn S.  
***Little Billy***  
Hollidaysburg, Pa.: Jason & Nordic Publishers, 1995.
- (Baily's)  
***Baily's Hunting Companion***  
Cambridge: Baily's, 1994.
- Banks, Carolyn  
***Groomed for Death***  
New York: Fawcett, 1995.
- Barbier, Dominique  
***Souvenir...***  
Healdsburg, Calif.: The Author, 1994.
- Barton, Frank Townsend  
***Hunters***  
London: Eveleigh Nash, 1910.
- Bracher, Steven  
***The Hunting of the Hare***  
Penrith, England: David A.H. Grayling, 1991.
- British Horse Society  
***Polo for the Pony Club***  
Woodbury, N.Y.: Barron's, 1977.
- Coakes, Marion  
***Meet Stroller***  
London: Pelham Books, 1967.
- Evans, J. Warren, et. al.  
***The Horse***  
New York: W.H. Freeman and Company, 1990.
- Fillis, James  
***Breaking and Riding***  
London: Hurst & Blackett, n.d.  
(Fort Leavenworth)  
***Fort Leavenworth Hunt Staff Manual 1938-1939***  
Kansas: Fort Leavenworth Hunt, 1938.
- Groth, John  
***John Groth's World of Sport***  
New York: Winchester Press, 1970.
- Jankovich, Miklos  
***They Rode Into Europe***  
New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1971.
- Johnson, Lynne  
***Horse Lover's Vacation Guide***  
Richfield, Ohio: Riding Vacations, 1995.
- Kainer, Robert A. and Thomas O. McCracken  
***The Coloring Atlas of Horse Anatomy***  
Loveland, Colo.: Alpine Publications, 1994.
- Lodge, Ray and Susan Shanks  
***All-Weather Surfaces for Horses***  
London: J.A. Allen and Co., 1994.
- Manning, John, ed.  
***Manning's Guide to College and Secondary School Equestrian Programs***  
Shelburne, Mass.: Manning Associates, 1993.
- Marshall, T.M.B.  
***The Russell Album***  
London: Bickers and Son, 1885.
- Moore, Daphne  
***In Nimrod's Footsteps***  
Penrith, England: David A.H. Grayling, 1974.
- Morgan, David B.  
***Twentieth Century Horse Book***  
Fayetteville, Ark.: D.B. Morgan, 1902.
- Oliver, Robert and Bob Langrish  
***A Photographic Guide to Stable Management***  
Newton Abbot: David & Charles, 1994.
- Pearce, James J.  
***Everybody's Polo***  
London: Robert Hale, 1949.
- Price, Steven D. and Charles Kauffman  
***The Polo Primer***  
New York: The Stephen Greene Press, 1989.
- Ryden, Hope  
***God's Dog***  
New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1975.
- Silvester, Hans  
***Horses of the Camague***  
New York: Penguin, 1979.
- Sneyd, Barbara  
***Riding High***  
New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1986.
- Tattersall, George  
***Sporting Architecture***  
London: R. Ackermann, 1841.
- Tevis, William  
***The Horse***  
San Francisco: Privately Printed, 1922.
- Welcome, John, ed.  
***Kipling on Horses and Horsemen***  
Wiltshire, England: Marlborough Books, 1992.
- Williams, Moyra  
***Adventures Unbridled***  
New York: A.S. Barnes and Co., 1960.
- Serials**
- Conquistador*  
*EQUUS*  
*The Horse Digest*  
*Sidesaddle News*  
*Spur of Virginia*
- Videos**
- You Can... Ride a Horse*  
Blackboard Entertainment, 1994.

# Exhibition Spotlight

The following is a list of exhibitions that NSL members may find of interest. A contact number is included; we encourage you to check schedules and hours before attending.

**KY. LEXINGTON.** American Saddle Horse Museum, Kentucky Horse Park. "Artists Look at Saddlebreds: The Museum Collection." Through Nov. 30, 1995. (606) 259-2746. This exhibit features the museum's collection of paintings and sculpture, including works by Edwin Bogucki, James Crowe, George Ford Morris, Marilyn Newmark, Gwen Reardon, Cindy Wolf and others. More than 100 works of art representing the American Saddlebred Horse are on display.

**KY. LEXINGTON.** International Museum of the Horse, Kentucky Horse Park. "16th Annual American Academy of Equine Art Juried Exhibition." Through May 29, 1995. (606) 259-4232. The Kenton Gallery showcases artworks by members and guests of the American Academy of Equine Art. Also, "The Horses of Currier & Ives," June 9-Sept. 5, 1995, will include 92 original prints from the largest private collection of Currier & Ives in the country; 20 of the prints were originally owned by Teddy Roosevelt.

**KY. LOUISVILLE.** Kentucky Derby Museum. "LeRoy Neiman Exhibit." Through June 3, 1995. (502) 637-1111. The museum presents a retrospective of the artist's work. Also, "Gifts from the Past, Treasures for the Future," from June 25-Sept. 23, 1995, honors the people who have donated artifacts to the museum's collections during its first decade.

**MD. SALISBURY.** Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art. "1994 Art and the Animal Exhibition." April 27-June 21, 1995. (206) 622-9250. This traveling show features contemporary animal and wildlife paintings and sculpture by member artists. The next stop will be The Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History, Jamestown, N.Y., from July 14-Sept. 10, 1995.

**MO. ST. LOUIS.** The Dog Museum. "Working Dogs Exhibition." Through July 30, 1995. (314) 821-3647. This show explores the AKC category of working dogs, traditionally known as guard dogs, protectors and hunters. Paintings, drawings and sculpture from the permanent collection, as well as works on loan from national dog clubs of the United States, highlight working dogs, from sled dogs to rescue dogs to herding dogs.

**N.M. RUIDOSO DOWNS.** Anne C. Stradling Museum of the Horse. "The Imperial Russian Horse: Equine Art from the Reign of the Czars." April 23-Sept. 10, 1995. (505) 378-4142. If you missed this exhibition, which features paintings and bronzes by Russia's most celebrated 19th-century equine artists, at the Kentucky Derby Museum, here's your last chance to see it in the United States. The show includes racing, agrarian, military and sporting subjects.

**N.Y. NEW YORK CITY.** The Pierpont Morgan Library. "Animals as Symbol in Medieval Illuminated Manuscripts." Through Sept. 3, 1995. (212) 685-0008. Examples from the Library's collection of illuminated manuscripts show the types of animal imagery found in medieval art, from Gospel Books that pair evangelists with animal symbols, to bestiaries, which bring together myths and legends of creatures. An Italian veterinary treatise and illustrations on dog care and training from the famous French hunting manual, *Livre de Chasse*, are included.

**N.Y. SARATOGA SPRINGS.** National Museum of Racing. "A Century of Jumpers." July 27-Oct. 31, 1995. (518) 584-0400. See page 3 for more information.

**TX. AMARILLO.** The American Quarter Horse Heritage Center and Museum. "Men of the Range." May 20-Sept. 30, 1995. (806) 376-5181. This exhibit showcases the life of

the American cowboy, as seen through the eyes of Western photographer David Stocklein.

**TX. KERRVILLE.** Cowboy Artists of America Museum "The Legend Lives: 30 Years of the Cowboy Artists of America." April 28-July 16, 1995. (210) 896-2553. Sixty paintings and sculptures from both active and emeritus CA members provide a view to the artistic inspiration of the American West.

**VA. LEESBURG.** The Museum of Hounds and Hunting. "All in a Hunting Day." May 27-June 18, 1995. (703) 777-2414. The museum's 10th annual sporting art exhibition features works by 29 American artists such as Kathleen Friedenberg, Marilyn Newmark, Sam Savitt, Fay Moore, Werner Rentsch, Barbara Oelke, Barbara Byrd, Amy Gessner, Susan Sponenberg, Eve Fout, Jan Woods and Clayton Bright. The theme of the show was suggested by the late equine artist Jean Bowman; the museum will award the first Jean Bowman Memorial Prize to the outstanding work of the show.

**VA. RICHMOND.** Virginia Historical Society. "Ex Libris: Virginians and Their Books." Through July 9, 1995. (804) 358-4901. The exhibition, which draws from the Society's collections of private libraries, examines the importance of books and explore what they reveal about their owners' interests and culture. On display: Stonewall Jackson's bookcase containing his personal library, George Washington's copy of a farming manual, and more.

**WY. JACKSON HOLE.** The National Wildlife Art Museum. "Charles M. Russell: Works on Paper." Through June 24, 1995. (307) 733-5771. The exhibit features Russell watercolors and sculpture depicting the American West on loan from the Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American Art in Tulsa, Okla.

**CANADA. ALGONQUIN PARK, ONTARIO.** Old Algonquin Museum. "1995 Art and the Animal Exhibition." Aug. 19-Oct. 29, 1995. (212) 741-2880. The Society of Animal Artists kicks off its 1995-1996 exhibition at the SAA's first exhibition site outside the U.S. Sixty of the artworks will then take the show on the road to museums across the U.S.

**ENGLAND. LONDON.** Tate Gallery. "British Sporting Art." April 11-July 2, 1995. (071) 887-8730. This exhibition, which focuses on British sporting art from 1720-1850, includes works by some of the defining artists of the genre: Peter Tillemans, George Stubbs, Ben Marshall, John Ferneley, James Pollard, Sir Edwin Landseer and Sir Francis Grant. Many originally came from the collection of Paul Mellon, who presented them to the Tate as part of a gift through the British Sporting Art Trust in 1979.



COURTESY OF THE MUSEUM OF THE HORSE

This 1864 painting by master painter N.E. Sverchkoff is included in the "Imperial Russian Horse" show at the Anne C. Stradling Museum of the Horse.

# NSL Newsbriefs

Leaders in various horse activities were elected to the Library's board of directors at the annual meeting, Middleburg, Va., Jan. 30: Joan Irvine Smith, who breeds and shows hunters and jumpers; Jacqueline Mars Vogel, the first vice president of the United States Equestrian Team; John von Stade, president of the National Museum of Racing and chairman of the Far Hills (N. J.) race meeting; and Richard R. Ohrstrom, a longtime Library supporter, foxhunter and owner/breeder of race horses.

Mr. Ohrstrom, son of the Library's co-founder, the late George L. Ohrstrom Sr., passed away last February.

Mrs. Smith owns The Oaks, a show and training facility at San Juan Capistrano, Calif., a half-hour's drive north of San Diego. She also stands a number of Holsteiner stallions at The Oaks Indian Hill Ranch, Valley Center, Calif. Her goal of developing an American Sport Horse is being achieved for the most part by crossing Thoroughbred mares with her Holsteiner studs, which include South Pacific, Cheer and Carolus Magnus.

Mrs. Vogel is closely associated with three-day eventing. She owns Shannon, the winner of the international event at Punchestown, Ireland, in 1993, ridden by Karen O'Connor, and the talented eventer Prince Panache. International event riders Karen and David O'Connor stable their horses at Mrs. Vogel's Stonehall Farm, Middleburg.

Mrs. Vogel's grandmother, Ethel V. Mars, raced horses; in 1940, her Gallahadion won the Kentucky Derby. Mrs. Vogel's father, Forrest E. Mars, is an expert on the bloodlines of sport horses, here and abroad. Many of his stud books and reference books have been donated to the Library.

Under Mr. von Stade's chairmanship, Far Hills has become one of America's leading steeple-

chase meets. For the last two years it has provided in excess of \$300,000 in purses, a record in this country.

Likewise, the National Museum of Racing has prospered under Mr. von Stade's leadership. Changes begun by prior president Whitney Tower were brought to fulfillment by von Stade. These include numerous physical renovations, interactive videos and attractive, educational displays. In addition, seminars inform visitors on subjects like race riding and medication of horses. As a result, the Museum's membership has quadrupled in the past three years.

The von Stade family has long been associated with racing. John's father, the late F. S. (Skiddy) von Stade, was president of Saratoga, 1946-1970, and a key administrator in the National Steeplechase Association; John's brother-in-law, the late George H. (Pete) Bostwick, is a member of the Museum's Hall of Fame of Racing as a steeplechase jockey.

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Lily Stockman, 12, a C-2 with the Amwell Valley (N.J.) Pony Club, is the winner of the 1995 Hildegardine Neill Ritchie "Joys of Foxhunting" Writing Contest, held annually by the Foxhunting Committee of the United States Pony Clubs, Inc. NSL Director Peter Winants and Librarian Laura Rose,

who judged the contest, chose Stockman's story, "A Close Encounter," from 44 entries from 33 Pony Clubs in 22 states.

This year's three honorable mentions went to: a poem by Autumn Hill of the Rolling Rock (Pa.) Hunt Pony Club; a story by Matthew Smith of the Casanova-Warrenton (Va.) Pony Club; and a story by Jessica Pardus of the Murry Highlands Pony Club in Pennsylvania.

The winning entries appear in the April 21 issue of *The Chronicle of the Horse* magazine, as well as in the *USPC News*. In addition, the NSL is proud to award the winners with a one-year membership to the Library.

The "Joys of Foxhunting" contest was established in 1994 by friends of the late Hildegard Ritchie, the founder in 1958 and district commissioner for 30 years of the Colorado Springs Pony Club. Ritchie wrote hunt reports of the Arapahoe Hunt for many years for the *Chronicle*.

Congratulations, winners!

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NSL Librarian Laura Rose met up with the members of the Therapeutic Riding Association of Virginia (TRAV) at the organization's annual meeting in Clifton, Va., in March. The members of TRAV were interested in learning more about the NSL, and

wanted to explore how the two organizations might work together to make educational materials about therapeutic riding available for instructors, riders, health professionals and others. Rose, a volunteer and member of the board of directors of the Loudoun 4-H Therapeutic Riding Foundation in Leesburg, Va., was more than happy to oblige.

Would the members of your organization be interested in getting to know the NSL? If so, we can visit you, or help you arrange

## Ricard R. Ohrstrom

Ricard R. Ohrstrom of the Plains, Va., a son of NSL co-founder George L. Ohrstrom and an important supporter of the Library over the years, died Feb. 22 after a heart operation performed at the Straub Clinic in Honolulu, Hawaii. He was 72.

Ohrstrom was a breeder and owner of steeplechasers and foxhunters. He was a former president of the Orange County Hunt (Va.), and his farm, "Old Whitewood," is the site of the annual Orange County Hunt Team Chase. He was very involved in horse racing and breeding. His breeding operation was primarily in France, and he raced horses in Ireland, England, France and the United States.

Ohrstrom controlled his father's New York company, G.L. Ohrstrom & Co., from 1955 to 1966, when heart trouble forced his retirement. He later became interested in conservation and philanthropy. He had a special interest in the Sun Valley Center for Arts and Humanities in Sun Valley, Idaho, and in the National Sporting Library. Ohrstrom was elected to the NSL's board of directors in January 1995.

Ohrstrom is survived by his wife, Allen Dunnington Ohrstrom, brother George and sister Magalen O. Bryant, and his six sons: Ricard Jr., Kenneth, George, Christopher, Barnaby and Mark.

## Ellen B. Wells

Ellen Baker Wells of Alexandria, Va., died of cancer April 2. Wells, 60, was an expert on horse books and the head of the special collections department at the Smithsonian Institution Libraries. She had served on the NSL's board of directors since 1987.

Wells wrote extensively on the horse, its history and bibliography. She authored *Horsemanship: A Bibliography of Printed Materials from the Sixteenth Century Through 1974*, which has become a standard reference work for those studying the literature of horsemanship. She also co-wrote the 1989 book *The Annotated Black Beauty* with Anne Grimshaw, and contributed a number of articles to the *National Sporting Library Newsletter*, the most recent being an overview of the von Hunersdorf Collection in the Summer 1993 issue.

Wells's bibliography, which took more than 20 years to complete, illustrated her lifelong pursuit of and passion for rare horse books. Her knowledge of the field and her library background made her an asset to the National Sporting Library's board of directors.

a field trip to the Library. We'd enjoy meeting you. For more information, contact NSL Librarian Laura Rose at (703) 687-6542.

\*\*\*\*\*

Special thanks to NSL Friends of the Library who have renewed their memberships for 1995. It is always exciting for us to add new members to our roster, but also a thrill to have so many of you support us year after year. We appreciate your continued support.

Your membership dues help us help our visitors, from high school students working on school reports to scholars working on in-depth research. In addition, your membership provides your subscription to the *NSL Newsletter*, and allows you to bid in the annual duplicate book sale. If you have yet to renew, we hope you will do so without delay.

\*\*\*\*\*

The NSL's collection of books on the horse in art is often visited by artists in search of technique tips, anatomical information, or simply inspiration. All this and more will be covered in the American Academy of Equine Art's 1995 workshops held at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Ky., this summer and fall.

Workshops on sculpture, painting, drawing and pastels will be offered with noted equine artists Sam Savitt, James Crow, Kathleen Friedenberg, Werner Rentsch, Barbara Oelke, Marilyn Newmark, Fay Moore

Wells was born in Berlin and grew up in Ithaca, N.Y. She graduated from Oklahoma State University and received a master's degree in library science from the University of California at Berkeley and a master's degree in history from McGill University in Montreal.

Her library career took her to posts at the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Md.; the Osler Library of the History of Medicine, McGill University; Cornell University Library, Ithaca, N.Y.; and the Smithsonian Institution Libraries.

At the Smithsonian she oversaw the Libraries' most important books, including the collection in the Dibner Library in the History of Science. She had curated a number of exhibitions at the National Museum of American History.

Wells is survived by two daughters, Linda A. Wilson and Diane E. Hull, both of San Luis Obispo, Calif.; and two grandchildren.

Through the years in travels throughout the world, Wells accumulated an important library of horse books. The bulk of her collection will become a part of the National Sporting Library, where her memory will be perpetuated.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you're an avid reader of *Equine Images* magazine, you probably saw Nancy Schaut's article on horse book collecting, "Throughbreds in Fact and Fiction" in the April/May 1995 issue. Schaut writes: "Whether you are a reader or a collector, there are many affordable and enjoyable horse books out there, just waiting for a loving new home."

\*\*\*\*\*

The National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, Okla., has rounded up the literary winners in the museum's 34th Annual Western Heritage Awards.

Those judged "outstanding" in their categories included: *Bluefeather Fellini in the Sacred Realm* by Max Evans, Western novel; *The Red Drum* by Jane Candia Coleman, poetry book; *Manitow and Ironhand*, from *New Trails*, by John Jakes, short story; *Charles M. Russell, Sculptor*, by Rick Stewart, art book; *Eagle Drum* by Robert Crum, juvenile book; "The Twilight of the Texas Ranger" in *Texas Monthly Magazine*, by Robert Draper, magazine article; and the *Oxford History of the American West*, edited by Clyde A. Milner II, Carol A. O'Connor and Martha A. Sandweiss, nonfiction book.

Other categories recognize works in television, film and music; this year's award for "Outstanding Theatrical Motion Picture" went to *Legends of the Fall*.

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## **Gift Horses**

We never know what to expect when we pick up our mail at the Middleburg post office. Some days our humble little post office box is just like any other—stuffed with bills and junk mail. But other days we discover a magical "*The Package Is Too Large For Your Box*" notice, which means that a trip to the counter could result in anything from a single book to boxes and boxes of them.

NSL members and other friends fielded a number of books our way over the last few months. A highlight was certainly **Samuel Neel's** donation of his collection of books by Somerville and Ross (see page 16), but his gift was only one of many valuable donations.

**David Rosenthal** donated the notable 1841 book *Sporting Architecture*, and **Linda and Phil Dodderidge** donated books on racing from the estate of **Robert R. Dodderidge**. Dressage instructor **Dominique Barbier** donated a signed copy of his new book *Souvenir*, and **Carolyn Banks** sent a copy of her mystery, *Groomed for Death*. **George Masek** shipped a box containing a wide variety of books, including T.M.B. Marshall's 1885 book *The Russell Album*.

Other book donors included **Vicky Moon, Mrs. H.A. Kaye, Mary P. Winsor, Capt. John H. Fritz, Steven D. Price, Charles Kauffman, Keating Carrier, Donna P. Manaker** and **Nancy Carter**. Many of the books came straight from our "Books Wanted" list, and went straight into the collection.

We also greatly appreciate a number of book donations from some of our book-seller friends in England—**J.A. Allen and Co., David A.H. Grayling, and Phenotype Books**. As always, *The Chronicle of the Horse* magazine deserves recognition for their donation of review copies of recent books.

A number of important serials also found their way to us, thanks to **Ellen B. Wells** and **Cricket Whitner**. Wells donated a run of over 100 issues of *The Horse Digest*, among other periodicals, and Whitner presented us with over 100 back issues of *Spur of Virginia* and *Spur*. In addition, **Richard Bandler** donated copies of *Baily's Hunting Directory* and *Steeplechasing in America* that the collection previously lacked.

Three cheers for our donors!

## **The Reasons Are Stacking Up!**

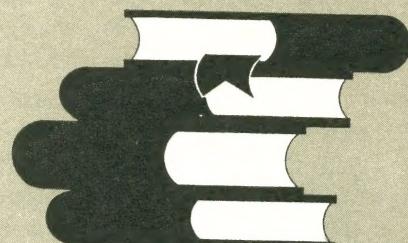
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## Somerville and Ross Come Home to the NSL on St. Patrick's Day

The NSL was blessed with the luck of the Irish this year on St. Patrick's Day when Samuel Neel, sporting a green-tinted carnation in honor of the holiday, presented the Library with his collection of the complete works of Edith Somerville and Martin Ross.

Neel, a retired lawyer from MacLean, Va., started collecting the books of the Irish lady writers more than 50 years ago when Mrs. Neville Atkinson, a friend in the Virginia hunt country, presented him with a copy of *Some Experiences of an Irish R.M.* He later began actively collecting Somerville and Ross books, both here in America and on trips to Ireland and elsewhere.

The resulting collection—59 items in all—includes some very rare and hard-to-find books, such as *The Mark Twain Birthday Book* and *The Story of the Discontented Little Elephant*. A copy of the song *The Kerry Recruit*, which is almost legendary in its scarcity, is also included. Also rare is a letter by Ross (this one to Mrs. Ethel Moore of Warrenton, Va., discussing, among other topics, foxhunting), as well as letters by Somerville, who signed a number of books in the collection.

Neel was not just a fan of Somerville and Ross. He became a true student of the literature, as is reflected in the collection's bibliographies and biographies, such as Elizabeth Hudson's *A Bibliography of the First Editions of E. Oe. Somerville and Martin Ross*, Violet Powell's *The Irish Cousins*, and Gifford Lewis's *The Selected Letters of Somerville and Ross*.

We are both grateful and proud that Mr. Neel chose the NSL as the home for such an important collection. We encourage you to visit the Library when you are next in Middleburg to take a peek at these very special books. We look forward to sharing them with Somerville and Ross enthusiasts in the days to come.

*Neel's donation included the 1902 book A Patrick's Day Hunt by Martin Ross and E. Oe. Somerville.*



PETER WINANTS PHOTOS

*Samuel Neel with a copy of Somerville and Ross's 1903 book, Slipper's ABC of Foxhunting.*



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